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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

STEEL et al

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January 24, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (AS ATTACHED TO INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT)

- ~~Claim 4, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert -- claim 1 --.~~
- ~~Claim 5, line 1, delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert -- claim 1 --.~~
- ~~Claim 9, line 1, delete "any one of claims 6 to 8" and insert -- claim 6 --.~~

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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